

# Bob McConnell

27 June 2010

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs:

I would like to express my opinion regarding the Comcast acquisition of NBC and the issues it raises with respect to competition on the internet. You may take my opinion as that of a concerned citizen. However, I am much more informed and knowledgeable than "the man on the street." I am a retired electronics executive, a user of the internet for more than 20 years, and knowledgeable in the details of data transmission.

The acquisition of NBC by Comcast creates a company that is both a major provider of internet access through the Comcast cable systems and now, a major provider of content through NBC. It is completely feasible, almost laughably easy, for an internet service provider to discriminate against content. The information about where the information came from is contained in every packet of internet information. It is simply a matter of writing the algorithms for the routers to slow the information down by sending it on a circuitous path or to simply loose a percentage of the packets.

Comcast should not be allowed to have the power of restricting delivery of their competitors content. Absent general regulations, the acquisition should not be allowed to proceed without agreements with Comcast permanently restricting the company from discriminating against its competitors content.

The general regulations need to be put in place to prevent this being an issue in the case of other structural changes in the future. The entire issue of regulation of the internet should be looked at carefully. I sincerely hope that the FCC can do this without new legislation. The key elements of the regulations need to be:

- 1) Prevention of discrimination on content. We should all be able to use our internet connection as we choose as long as we don't break other laws AND that should not be an issue for the internet provider-in other words, do not require the internet provider to be a traffic cop.
- 2) Recognition that most consumers will see limited competition to provide them with internet service at a lower price.

421 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Kirkland, WA 98033  
425-822-3828  
email:bob@bobmcconnell.com

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- 3) Most of the cable TV providers who now also provide internet services do have either an actual or a virtual monopoly on that point of access to our homes and businesses.
- 4) Providers need a combination of incentive and regulation to get the small towns and rural areas of the USA adequate internet service.

It should be recognized from deregulation attempts on other industries that competition is sometimes difficult to provide. The competition between systems using TV cable and systems using phone cable has not resulted in significant competition. It is possible that the TV cable needs to be regulated and opened to competition just as the other cable (phone) into the home is regulated. I am not in favor of excess regulation, but I think that some regulations are often needed to enable real competition.

In summary, please don't let the Comcast acquisition of NBC go forward without a stringent agreement preventing the discrimination by Comcast against other content providers. Then please fix the entire problem.

Yours truly,



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